(c) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken ; and

(d) what other steps are being taken to counter propaganda by Pakistani electronic media ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS) : (a) The Government are aware of reception of foreign TV signals containing anti-India propaganda from across the border in areas adjoining North-western international border.

(b) and (c) In addition to the high power TV transmitter already functioning at Jammu, a Programme Generation Facility (PGF) Centre of Doordarshan at Jammu is under implementation.

(d) It is the constant endeavour of both Doordarshan and AIR to counter anti-India propaganda and to project India's viewpoint.

Committee on cable T.V. Network

541. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up a committee on Cable T.V. network and dish antenna systems ;

(b) whether the committee has submitted its report ;

(c) if so, the main recommendations thereof ;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government have drafted a concrete modality on cable T.V. network to lay down guidelines under the law ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The main recommendations of the Inter-Departmental Committee to study various aspects of establishment of Cable TV Networks and Dish-Antenna Systems are given in the statement. (*See* below).

(d) and (e) The recommendations of the Committee are under consideration of the Government.

Statement

The main recommendations of the Inter-Departmental Committee are summarised below :—

1. The establishment of cable TV networks (without dish antenna) may be permitted after devising an appropriate regulatory mechanism to cover their operation both within private premises and across public property ;

2. The licensing of a dish antenna should be permitted only on the condition that the programme received are not redistributed through cable or otherwise ;

3. It is necessary to enact, a separate legislation which specifically addresses it self to rgulating cable TV network operations in the country ;

4. Such an enactment and the rules and orders issued there-under could also clearly bring out the licensing procedures to be observed in the matter of establishment of cable TV networks as also technical and other parameters within which these networks are to function ;

5. The comittee feels that it will be appropriate that the functions of licensing are delegated to the State Governments ;

6. The Committee recommends establishment of a National Cable Authority to coordinate all matters regarding regulation of cable TV :

7. It will be compulsory for a cable TV network to carry all Doordarshan signals which are available in the area through terrestrial transmitters ;

8. The distribution of programmes through cable TV networks should be brought within the definition of "Public Exhibition". This may call for making suitable amendments in related enactments ;

9. The copyright act may be suitably amended for providing distribution of programmes through cable TV networks as a distinct category of copyright ; and

10. The requests received from Government/Semi-Government/Autonomous Bodies for establishment of Dish-Antenna systems to receive TV signals from foreign satellites for the benefit of foreign experts employed in these organisations may continue to be considered on case to case basis in consultation with the Ministries of External Affairs, Home Affairs and Information & Broadcasting.

The impact of BBC (WST), Satellite T.V. and C.N.N. on Doordarshan

542. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI :

DR. ABRAR AHMED :

CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) what is the impact of BBC world service Television (WST) the Satellite Television Asian Region, CNN etc. on our Doordarshan vi ewers ;

(b) whether Government have conducted any studies in this regard ; if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) what steps Doordarshan propose to take to improve further the quality of the Doordarshan programmes ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS) : (a) and (b) Programmes from CNN, STAR TV etc. are available only to those viewers of Doordarshan who have installed a suitable dish antenna. Doordarshan has not contucted any study to assess the impact of these programmes on those who view them.

(c) Constant efforts continue to be made to upgrade the technology and to bring about qualitative improvement in the programme content and format of Doordarshan so as to sustain the interest of its viewers.

Implementation of Prasar Bharati Act

543. SHRI KAPIL VERMA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have fixed a dead line to implement the Prasar Bharati Act ;

(b) whether Government propose to bring about some amendments in the Act, if so, the details thereof and by when these amendments are likely to be introduced in the Parliament ; and

(c) what are the recommendations of the Committee set up by Government on competition in electronic media and what are Government's reactions thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS) : (a) and (b) Many essential formalities and amendments need to be completed and various steps taken before the Prasar Bharati Act can be implemented.